

Patent and Trademark Department D-377/AP6D Abbott Laboratories 100 Abbott Park Road Abbott Park, Illinois 60064-6050 USA Telephone: 847-938-3888 Fax: 847-938-2623

April 2, 2001

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Brian G. Gore 6555 Whirlaway Circle Orlando, FL 32818 CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY COMMUNICATION

Re:

DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SUTURING TISSUE Abbott Ref. No. 6776.US.C1; TTC Ref. No.: 15508-000150

Dear Mr. Gore:

Perclose, Inc., as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Abbott Laboratories, is continuing prosecution of certain aspects of a previously-filed patent application that names you as a joint inventor, along with Bernard Andreas, Michael Barrett, Mark Foley, Lewis Isbell, Ronald Songer and James Vetter. Particularly, a Continued Prosecution Application ("CPA") of the earlier patent application, which is referenced in the header above, has been filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In order to claim priority to the filing date of the earliest related application that has been filed, however, it is now necessary to include Enrique Klein, T. Daniel Gross and Tomoaki Hinohara as named inventors. A new Supplemental Declaration, which includes all named inventors, therefore is required.

For your convenience and recollection, we have enclosed a copy of the previously-filed patent application. We also have enclosed two Supplemental Declaration forms to be signed by you. Please sign and date the enclosed documents in pen where indicated next to your name. Once signed, please return these documents to me using the enclosed Federal Express envelope. To ensure timely filing of this matter in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please return the signed document no later than April 13, 2001.

In advance, thank you for your continued assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at my direct number, 847-938-3888.

With best regards,

ABBOTT LABORATORIES

Daniel J. Hulseberg Patent Counsel

Enclosures

cc: James Heslin, Esq.

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION

| | As | a | below | named | inventor | , I | declare | that: |
|--|----|---|-------|-------|----------|-----|---------|-------|
|--|----|---|-------|-------|----------|-----|---------|-------|

| My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am the original, first and sole |
|---|
| inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject |
| matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SUTURING |
| TISSUE the specification of which is attached hereto or X was filed on June 26, 1997 as Application No. 08/883,246 and was |
| amended on (if applicable). |

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56. I claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

I claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| Application No. | Date of Filing | Status |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 07/989,611 | 12/10/1992 | Issued as 5,417,699 |
| 08/252,124 | 06/01/1994 | Issued as 5,613,974 |
| 08/259,410 | 06/14/1994 | Issued as 5,779,719 |
| 08/824,031 | 03/26, 1997 | Allowed |

| Full Name of Inventor 1: | Last Name: ANDREAS | First Name: BERNARD | Middle Name or Initial: | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Residence & Citizenship: | City: Redwood City | State/Foreign Country: California | | Country of Citizenship: United States | | | |
| Post Office Address: | Post Office Address: 33168 Lake Superior Place | City: Redwood City | State/Country: California | Postal Code: 94063 | | | |

| Full Name of | Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name or | Initial: | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Inventor 2: | BARRETT | MICHAEL | .vidule (value or | inidal: | | |
| Residence & | City: | State/Foreign Country: | Country of Citize | | | |
| Citizenship: | Campbell | California | | United States | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | City: | State/Country: | Postal Code | | |
| Address: | 677 Kenneth Avenue | Campbell | California | ·95008 | | |
| Full Name of | Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name or | | | |
| Inventor 3: | FOLEY | MARK | J. | | | |
| Residence & | City: | State/Foreign Country: | Country of Citize | nshin: | | |
| Citizenship: | Menio Park | California | United States | | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | City: | State/Country: | Postal Code: | | |
| Address: | 1151 Hobart Street | Menio Park | California | 94304 | | |
| Full Name of | Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name or | Initial: | | |
| Inventor 4: | GORE | BRIAN | | | | |
| Residence & | City: | State/Foreign Country: | Country of Citize | nship: | | |
| Citizenship: | Oriando | Florida | United States | • | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | City: | State/Country: | Postal Code: | | |
| Address: | 6555 Whirlaway Circle | Orlando | Florida | 32818 | | |
| Full Name of | Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name or | nitial: | | |
| Inventor 5: | ISBELL | LEWIS | | | | |
| Residence & | City: | State/Foreign Country: | Country of Citize | nship: | | |
| Citizenship: | Union City | California | United States | | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | City: | State/Country: | Postal Code: | | |
| Address: | 34800 Hollyhock Street | Union City | California | 94587 | | |
| Full Name of | Last Name: SONGER | First Name: | Middle Name or I | nitial: | | |
| Inventor 6: | | RONALD | . W. | | | |
| Residence & Citizenship: | City: San Jose | State/Foreign Country: California | Country of Citizen | | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | | United States | | | |
| Address: | 3536 Pleasant Crest Drive | City: San Jose | State/Country: | Postal Code: | | |
| Full Name of | Last Name: | First Name: | California | 95148 | | |
| Inventor 7: | VETTER | JAMES | Middle Name or to | nital: | | |
| Residence & | City: | State/Foreign Country: | Country of Citizer | | | |
| Citizenship: | Portola Valley | California | United States | isnip: | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | City: | State/Country: | Postal Code: | | |
| Address: | 275 Willowbrook | Portola Valley | California | 94028 | | |
| Full Name of | Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name or to | 1 | | |
| Inventor 8: | KLEIN | ENRIQUE | J. | | | |
| Residence & | City: | State/Foreign Country: | Country of Citizen | shin: | | |
| Citizenship: | Los Altos | California | United States | | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | City: | State/Country: | Postal Code: | | |
| Address: | 1686 Christina Drive | Los Altos | California | 94024 | | |
| Full Name of | Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name or Ir | itial: | | |
| Inventor 9: | GROSS | T. DANIEL | 1. | | | |
| Residence & | City: | State/Foreign Country: | Country of Citizen | ship: | | |
| Citizenship: | Los Gatos | California | United States | • | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | City: | State/Country: | Postal Code: | | |
| Address: | 200 Kimble Avenue | Los Gatos | California | 95032 | | |
| Full Name of | Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name or In | itial: | | |
| Inventor 2: | HINOHARA | TOMOAKI | | | | |
| Residence & | City: | State/Foreign Country: | Country of Citizens | ship: | | |
| Citizenship: | Portola Valley | California | Japan | | | |
| Post Office | Post Office Address: | City: | State/Country: | Postal Code: | | |
| Address: | 40 Los Charros | Portola Valley | California | 94028 | | |

Attorney Docket No.: 15508-000150

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

| Signature of Inventor 1 | Signature of Inventor 2 | Signature of Inventor 3 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| BERNARD H. ANDREAS | MICHAEL BARRETT | MARK J. FOLEY |
| Date | Date | Date |
| Signature of Inventor 4 | Signature of Inventor 5 | Signature of Inventor 6 |
| BRIAN GORE | LEWIS ISBELL | RONALD W. SONGER |
| Date | Date | Date |
| Signature of Inventor 7 | Signature of Inventor 8 | Signature of Inventor 9 |
| JAMES W. VETTER . | ENRIQUE J. KLEIN | T. DANIEL GROSS |
| Date | Date | Date |
| Signature of Inventor 10 | | |
| TOMOAKI HINOHARA | : | |
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